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ABSTRACT

This resource guide of 40 items presents materials for studying various aspects of African life, culture, and history. The materials selected for the guide range from records and filmstrips to books and can be used by community groups as well as students. The guide is organized into 7 sections that include music, art and architecture, theater, cooking, literature, religion, history, contemporary Africa, and resources. The format for each item includes: (1) title; (2) source address; (3) cost; (4) target groups; (5) potential uses; (6) goals of the material; (7) specific objectives of the material; (8) general description; and (9) evaluation of the materials. (SM)

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Resource Guide of African Study Materials for Use by Adult Populations

Cynthia Szymanski Sunal
and
Mohammed Kabiru Farouk

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AFRICAN STUDIES MATERIALS:

An Introduction

There is a wide range of materials on Africa available today. It is possible to listen to a record of Togolese music, read a novel by a Nobel Prize-winning African author, or investigate the history of African religions. Whatever the gaps in one's background there are likely to be materials on Africa to fill those gaps. Whatever one's personal interests, there are likely to be materials to stimulate that interest.

This Resource Guide attempts to present a few of the materials available for studying or just plain enjoying various aspects of African life, culture, and history. The materials selected for the Guide range from records to filmstrip/tape sets to books. Some of the books are easy to read and some are challenging. Most require no background in the topic they cover, while a few are better used if one already has some background. The Guide tries to present something for most everyone's interests.

It is hoped that the user will consider the materials in the guide from two viewpoints. First, is there something I might find interesting here? Second, is there something a group I belong to, (my church, my stamp club, my homemaker's club etc.) might find interesting? All of the materials in the Guide can be enjoyed by an individual. They were all chosen, however, for their value for use by a group. They all have the potential to get a good discussion started.

The materials were selected by considering their: 1.) general interest to a wide audience, 2.) cost, 3.) representativeness, 4.) understandability, and 5.) potential for use by a group.

The Guide is organized into several sections. These are: Music, Art and Architecture, Theatre, Cooking, Literature, Religion, History, Contemporary Africa, and Resources. The Table of Contents lists each item and the page on which it can be found.

Most items, with the exception of resource lists, are presented in a standard format throughout the Guide.

1. The title of the material is given first. If the material is not a book it is identified as a record or filmstrip/tape. Any materials accompanying the main item are also noted.
2. The source address identifies the source from whom the material may be obtained.
3. The cost of the item is given next.
4. Target Groups at which the material seems to be aimed are identified next.
5. Other groups which may be interested in the material are next identified under Potential Uses.
6. The major Goal of the material is given.
7. Following the Goal, the particular purposes for which the material was developed are given in Specific Objectives.
8. Then, the material is described in General Description - Unique Characteristics.
9. Finally, an Evaluation of the usefulness, appropriateness, and style of the material is given.

TITLE: In Township Tonight! South Africa's Black City Music and Theatre. (1985) Coplan, David B. 278 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman, Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $12.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Musical Groups, Theatre Groups

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Information and Enjoyment, History Enthusiasts, Cultural Organizations

GOAL: To explore the history of music and theatre among South African blacks

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To trace the development of music in black South Africa
2.) To trace the development of theatre in black South Africa
3.) To examine the environment in which modern black music and theatre in South Africa are developing

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Black popular culture is dynamic in South Africa today. Large audiences listen to black musicians nightly in South Africa's townships. Today's musicians and actors are the products of complex traditions. Indigenous musical traditions were adapted to a world of slave orchestras, penny whistle blowers, clergymen-composers, gumboot dances of dockworkers and miners, touring minstrels and touring vaudeville actors. The book describes the first jazz bands. It also describes the marabit, kwela and mbaganga dances. The development of black theatre from musicals, to popular drama workshops, to the internationally successful Market Theatre Johannesburg is documented. Finally, the book examines the effects of the social, political and economic environment in South Africa upon black music and theatre. Some of these events include slavery, diamond discoveries, industrial development, and the establishment of black townships as part of apartheid.

EVALUATION: A lively book, In Township Tonight!, will be of interest to musicians as well as social history buffs. It is comprehensive and detailed. The history of black South African music and theatre is presented in all its complexity and enthusiasm.

TITLE: Musicmakers of West Africa. (1985) Collins, John, 177 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Three Continents Press COST: $10.00
1346 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Musical Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Musical Groups, Personal Enjoyment, Cultural Organizations

GOAL: To provide a detailed introduction to the development of West African popular music from the 1950's through the 1980's

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the diversification of popular musical styles
2.) To present interviews with influential African musicians
3.) To examine the growth of the African recording business

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The discussion of African popular music during the past thirty years begins with the early Highlife bands of the 1950's. From these bands several popular musical styles developed. These have included comic opera, Dagomba Simpa music, a folk music revival and the more current Afro-beat and juju music. Nine interviews with influential African musicians trace the growth and diversification of African popular music. Also discussed are the roles of African musician's unions and of the recording business in Africa.

EVALUATION: As African popular music continues to make an ever-stronger impact upon international popular music this book explains some of the causes of that impact. It traces the experimentation and the combination of the new with the traditional in recent African popular music. The vitality of this music has attracted attention worldwide and has led to an increasing international interest in it. The author describes the evolution and importance of recent African popular music clearly and interestingly.

TITLE: "Dollar Brand, African Portraits" Record

SOURCE ADDRESS: Sackville Recordings COST: $8.98
893 Yonge St.
Toronto, Ontario 2H2 Canada

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Musical Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Musical Groups, Cultural Organizations, Service Organizations, Personal Enjoyment

GOAL: To present the music of Dollar Brand, a popular modern African musician

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To present piano recordings of Dollar Brand
2.) To present African blues
3.) To present African marimba music
4.) To present African tempo music

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This recording presents the music of Dollar Brand whose given name is Abdullah Ibrahim. Solo piano recordings by Dollar Brand are included. This popular musician plays a variety of currently popular types of music including blues, marimba, and tempo music.

EVALUATION: Fast-paced popular music is found on this record. The record jacket does not give much information on the songs played. The listener will enjoy Dollar Brand's music.

TITLE: "Africa Dances" (1986) Record

SOURCE ADDRESS: Original Music
R D 1 Box 190
Lasher Road
Tivoli, NY 12583

COST: $8.98

TARGET GROUP: General Audience, Music Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Music Enthusiasts, Music Groups, Cultural Organizations, School Groups

GOAL: To present the modern mix of African music

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To present harmonies new to African music
2.) To present harmonies deriving from traditional African music

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Easily available and cheap guitars and records have created new African dance styles. These are reflected in modern African music. Harmonies from church music and overseas music have also influenced modern African music. Some melodies contain African elements such as the "call and response" singing. some traditional instruments are also found in modern African music. Modern urban dance styles reflect both traditional and new influences. These are exported from one urban center to another and, to some extent, to rural areas. The eight songs on this record present a range of modern African music. The record jacket explains modern forms of music and the influences upon them.

EVALUATION: The music on this record will not seem entirely foreign. Many similarities to Western music are found, possibly because of the influence of Western music on African music. As one listens to this record, the differences between African and Western modern music also become evident. This is a good introduction to modern African music and to the diverse influences it represents.

TITLE: "Togo, Music from West Africa." Record.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Rounder Records
186 Willow Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144

COST: $8.98

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Music Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Music Groups, Cultural Organizations, Personal Enjoyment

GOAL: To present samples of Togolese music which demonstrate the essential characteristics of West African music.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To demonstrate the influence of the spiritual world on Togolese music
2.) To give examples of popoular folk songs
3.) To present songs of storytellers
4.) To present examples of West African music

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Traditional Togolese music is presented on this record. The music is chosen with a view to its representativeness of both Togolese music and of West African music in general. The record attempts to convey the concept that West Africans feel the spriritual world constantly about them. Traditionally, music is used to communicate with the spiritual world. The "griot", in particular, is a villager who is able to communicate with village ancestors. The record includes songs of griots. Also included are traditional folk songs. These folk songs describe popular concerns. Togo was once a major portion of the "slave coast". The music of Togo has had a strong effect on black American music and through that music, on music worldwide.

EVALUATION: The music on this record provides a good listening experience. It is often lively and complex. The guide to the music which appears on the record jacket is a fine introduction to the characteristics of Togolese and West African music. This an excellent place to begin if the listener is unfamiliar with African music.

TITLE: Igbo Arts: Community and Cosmos (1986). Book.

SOURCE ADDRESS: University of California at Los Angeles
55 Haines Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90024

COST: $21.00

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Art classes, Art clubs, Cultural presentations, Personal enjoyment

GOAL: Introduction to Igbo Arts

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) Presentation of background on the Igbo people
2.) Explanation of the role of art in Igbo life
3.) Explanation of Igbo esthetics
4.) Presentation of range of Igbo art

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book gives an overview of Igbo art. The Igbo are an ethnic group residing in southern Nigeria, a warm tropical area. The book begins with an introduction to the geography of the area in which the Igbo live. Then, an overview of Igbo history is given with the relationship of geography to their history stressed. It describes the role of art in Igbo life, their sense of aesthetics and the specific attributes of their art.

This book is unique because of its explanation of how Igbo art represents the world view of the Igbo. It is also unique in its description of the role of art in the life of the individual, in the family and in the community among the Igbo.

EVALUATION: This book is an excellent introduction to Igbo art for both the general reader and for the art enthusiast. For those whose knowledge of Africa or African art is limited this is an informative book. The photographs of Igbo art are clear and bright.

TITLE: Hausa Architecture. (1985) Noughtin, J.C. 176 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Lillian Barber Press
P. O. Box 232
New York, NY 10163

COST: $24.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Architecture Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: History Enthusiasts, Personal Enjoyment, Archaeology Enthusiasts, Cultural Organizations, Service Groups

GOAL: To outline the use of earth and mud by a group of prodigious builders, the Hausa of West Africa

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the evolution of Hausa settlements
2.) To decribe the influence of climate on architecture
3.) To present examples of Hausa architecture

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book describes the environment in which the Hausa have built their earth and mud brick buildings. The Hausa live on the savanna lands of sub-Saharan Africa. They are primarily found in northern Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and northern Cameroun. Settlement patterns are also described. Methods of construction with earth and mud are presented. The construction of small houses as wellas large palaces and city walls is described. There is an extensive discussion of architectural decoration and of derivatives of basic architectural styles. The text is illustrated with 196 photos and drawings and 8 maps. A bibliography is provided.

EVALUATION: Hausa Architecture is interesting as a book on architecture. It is also interesting to those who are avid history, archaelogy and ethnography buffs. Architecture reflects the environment and the society which builds it. This book is able to connect the architecture of the Hausa to both their surroundings and their culture.

TITLE: African Hairstyles: Styles of Yesterday and Today. (1983). 108 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Heineman Educational Books, Ltd.
22 Bedford Square
London, WC1B 3HH, United Kingdom

COST: $12.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: General Interest Groups, Art Groups, Cultural Organizations

GOAL: To make the reader aware of African hair sculpture as an art.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To present African hairstyles of yesterday
2.) To present modern African hairstyles
3.) To demonstrate to the reader how to copy the hairstyles displayed

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Many photographs are used to depict both modern and past African hairstyles. The hairstyles are presented geographically. There is an introduction to the sculptural art of African hairstyling. A "how-to-do-it" section on cornrowing and other methods of sculpting hair is provided.

EVALUATION: This is a fascinating book with lots of pictures. The reader will appreciate African hairstyling as an art. The "how-to-do-it" section makes the reader appreciate the complexity of this art and also makes the reader want to try it.

TITLE: African Spaces: Designs for Living in Upper Volta. (1985) Bourdier, Jean-Paul and Minh-ha, Trinh T. 232pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Africana Publishing Corp. COST: $59.50
30 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003

TARGET GROUP: General Audience

GOAL: To describe the relationship between spatial organization and daily activity in Gurunsi life in Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso)

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, Architectural Enthusiasts, Artists, Cultural Organizaitons

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the diversity of African local architecture
2.) To discuss the fundamental contituents of architecture: type, space, form, function
3.) To document traditional housing

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The dwellings of the Gurunsi people of Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) are documented in detail with over 100 photos and 64 drawings. The Gurunsi are described in detail in order to convey the diversity and complexity of typical African dwellings. The physical environment in which the Gurunsi build their dwellings is described. The social organization of the Gurunsi is discussed particularly in relation to their conception of what a family "compound" is. Historical background on this ethnic group and of the area in general is given. Different types of settlements are then described in detail and illustrated with photos and drawings. The appendix includes a bibliography, phonetic symbols to help pronounce Gurunsi words, occupancy maps, kinship maps, and a discussion of building evolution.

EVALUATION: The detailed dwelling plans in this book are informative and fascinating. Explanatory diagrams clarify the complexities of housing in family compounds. The Gurunsi people and their architecture become so familiar to the reader that it almost seems the reader has been there in the Gurunsi villages.

TITLE: Crafts and the Arts of Living in the Cameroun. (1982) Etienne Nugue, Jocelyne. Harri Peccinetti (photographer). 156 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Louisiana State University Press
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

COST: $22.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Craftspeople

POTENTIAL USES: Artisans, Cultural Oganizations, Art Clubs, Personal Enjoyment

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To demonstrate the indigenous culture of Cameroun
2.) To demonstrate the complexity and beauty of the living crafts of Cameroun

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Crafts are linked with the art of living in this book. It begins by considering Camerounian dwellings of earth, straw, or stone. People's dwellings indicate how they learn to live with nature. Then it examines everyday art. Both everyday objects (e.g. basketry, carved calabashes, pottery) and gestures are considered. One chapter deals with objects children make. Ornaments and festivals are discussed. One chapter describes Bamileke ceremonies in detail. Weavers and embroideries are also discussed. Maps are used in order to help the reader find the geographical regions of Cameroun under discussion.

EVALUATION: This book is wide-ranging presenting a variety of crafts from a variety of areas. Many clear, color photographs are used. The text explains each photograph well and gives ample description of the background related to each craft discussed.

TITLE: "Treasures of Nigeria" (1981) Filmstrip, Cassette tape, Pre and Post Viewer's Guide, Map, Bibliography, Activities

SOURCE ADDRESS: University of California 55 A Haines Hall Los Angeles, CA 90024 COST $21.00

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Art Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Art Clubs, Artists, Cultural Organizations, School Groups

GOAL: To present examples of Nigerian art during the past 2000 years.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To convey a sense of the sophistication of ancient Nigerian art
2.) To develop an understanding of the high level of technical skill represented by ancient Nigerian art
3.) To present an overview of ancient Nigerian art

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The discoveries of the past fifty years have extended the knowledge of Nigerian artistic techniques over the past 2000 years. Ancient Nigerian art has been studied carefully. It shows evidence of advanced technical skills and is highly sophisticated. Ancient Nigerian art has been ranked as among the world's greatest art. There are still gaps in our knowledge of Nigerian art over the past 2000 years but these are closing as scholars continue to investigate Nigeria's art treasures.

This set of materials introduces the user to the ancient masterpieces of Nigerian art. It does this through a filmstrip/tape set which is accompanied by a variety of materials. The materials include viewer's guides for use both before and after using the filmstrip/tape set. Also included is a copy of the narration on the tape. A map is provided so that sites mentioned in the tape may be located. The techniques of dating art objects are explained. A selected bibliography is provided. Finally, activities are available for further exploration of the topic.

EVALUATION: Beautiful photos of ancient Nigerian art treasures are used in this filmstrip. This is an excellent introduction to Nigerian art. It is also a fine introduction to a very old artistic tradition which is less known than European and Asian traditions but which has been equally sophisticated and skillful. The accompanying materials enable the user to become acquainted with the style and content represented by the Nigerian art tradition. An appreciation of the qualities of this tradition is built.

TITLE: "The Arts of Ghana" (1977). Filmstrip, cassette tape, study guide, pre-post viewer's guide, related activities guide.

SOURCE ADDRESS: University of California at Los Angeles
55 A Haines Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90024

COST: $21.00

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Art Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Service organizations, Art Clubs, History Enthusiasts, Elementary/Junior/Senior High Classes

GOAL: To introduce viewer to Ghanaian history, geography, religions, and culture through a study of the nation's traditional arts.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide specific examples of Ghanaian artwork
2.) To introduce Ghanaian history, geography, religions and culture
3.) To provide an opportunity to hear Ghanaian English
4.) To encourage viewer to compare styles and motifs

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This filmstrip and tape set gives examples of Ghanaian goldwork, leatherwork, textiles, sculpture and architecture. It presents an opportunity to compare styles and motifs. It incorporates an emphasis on how training in crafts and proverbial lore, beginning in early childhood, helps to preserve artistic traditions. Authentic music is heard on the tape. The commentary is given in American English on one side of the tape and in Ghanaian English on the other side of the tape. Accompanying the tape and filmstrip are several other items for extending the use of the set. These include: a study guide, a glossary which defines new terms introduced on the tape, and a listing of additional resources for further information. Also provided are a preview guide which introduces the viewer to the materials before they are shown, and a guide which reviews the materials after they have been viewed Additional items are two sets of activities for school children. One activity set is for use with grades 4 through 6 and another is for use with grades 7 through nine.

EVALUATION: A wide variety of support materials make this filmstrip and tape set useful and appropriate for a large range of groups. The photographs of Ghanaian art are clear and interesting. The materials are able to describe many aspects of Ghanaian culture through the traditional artwork.

TITLE: Rural Shelter in Southern Africa. (1986)
Frescura, Franco, 208 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Rovan Press Ltd. COST: $11.95
409-416 Dunwell
35 Jorissen Street
Braamfontein, Johannesburgh 2001
South Africa

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Cultural Organizations

POTENTIAL USES: Service Groups, Architecture Enthusiasts, School Groups

GOAL: To present a survey of the architecture, house forms and construction methods of the black rural peoples of South Africa

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To present the traditional architecture of rural southern Africa
2.) To discuss the pressures that have necessitated changes in the use of new materials and designs in rural architecture
3.) To discuss the modern architectural forms and construction methods of black rural southern Africa
4). To bring the cultural values involvedin rural architecture to the attention of the reader
5.) To discuss the new settlement patterns in southern Africa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The history of rural architecture in southern Africa is discussed. The house form and traditional building methods are also presented. Rural settlement patterns, social and cultural aspects of rural buildings and the new southern African squatter settlements are reviewed. Pictures and illustrations are used to provide the reader with a picture of traditional and new architectural designs of rural southern African buildings.

EVALUATION: Rural architecture in both its traditional and new forms is surveyed in this book. The use of photographs and drawings makes it a valuable record of the architecture, the dwelling forms and the building forms of the region with historical and current information.

TITLE: The African City. (1983) O'Connor, Anthony M. 359 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Africana Publishing Company
30 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003

COST: $19.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, African Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, School Groups, Architecture Enthusiasts

GOAL: To provide the reader with an essential foundation for understanding the structure of cities in Africa and the problems of urbanization

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To introduce the various characteristics of African cities
2.) To increase understanding of the diversity of forms of urban settings and experiences found in Africa
3.) To provide a foundation for the theoretical explanation of the processes of urbanization as well as a basis for practical planning decisions

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The topics covered in this book range over a large area. They include a discussion of urgan traditions; distribution and growth of urbanization (e.g. types of African cities); geographical distribution of urban development; rural-urban migration; ethnic groupings; the urban economy; housing; the spatial structure of the cities. The sharp contrast between indigenous and colonial urban traditions is presented with evidence of the changes that are currently taking place in both types of urban settings. Maps and tables are provided to illustrate major points.

EVALUATION: The diversity of African nations in terms of development is pointed out in this book. The impact of colonial administration and policies on the changing pattern of urbanization, such as the introduction of a money economy, industrialization, the establishment of political administrative centers, etc. is discussed in this book. It provides a comparative approach to the study of various aspects of the African society -- architecture, land tenure systems, language and ethnicity, etc., The book is a good source for those intersted in looking at individual African cities. The contemporary changes that are taking place in post-independence Africa are also revealed. This provides a description of the problems of urbanization that many African countries are battling with.

TITLE: Come to Laugh: A Study of African Traditional Theatre in Ghana. (1985) Bame, Kwabena N. 190 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Lilian Barber Press
P. O. Box 232
New York, NY 10163

COST: $9.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Theatre Groups

POTENTIAL USES: Cultural Organizations, Personal Interest, School Groups

GOAL: To provide clues to the relationships between popular arts and contemporary social processes in Ghana

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the concert party tradition in Ghana
2.) To present transcriptions of concert parties
3.) To examine the influences on the concert party

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The concert party is a tradition in the West African country of Ghana. It is a combination of traditional storytelling and musical entertainment. Humor is a major factor in the concert party. Comedians and singers both participate. Vaudeville is perhaps the closest American form of entertainment to the concert party. However, the concert party is somewhat like a play so it is different from vaudeville. Two transcriptions of concert parties are given, "The Jealous Rival" and "The Ungrateful Husband". In describing the concert party tradition the author also discusses the relationship between contemporary social processes in Ghana and the concert party. The concert party is seen as a reflection of, and commentary on, contemporary social processes.

EVALUATION: A particularly African event, the concert party, is presented in detail in this book. For those who are not familiar with the concert party, the transcriptions of two concert parties will help to give a sense of what occurs. Those who enjoy music, theatre, comedy, and especially vaudeville will enjoy this book and will want very much to participate in a concert party.

TITLE: The Africa News Cookbook: African Cooking for Western Kitchens. (1986)

SOURCE ADDRESS: Penguin Books
40 W. 23rd St.
New York, NY 10010

COST: $12.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, Homemakers Clubs, Gourmet Cooking Clubs, Cultural Organizations, Service Groups, People Interested in World Hunger Problems

GOAL: To introduce African cuisine to the world

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To introduce African food
2.) To introduce African spices
3.) To introduce African women
4.) To describe issued related to hunger

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This cookbook is introductory. The recipes in it are adapted for U.S. kitchens. Recipes from many African nations are given. There are chapters on: spices, snacks, condiments, soups, appetizers, chicken, meat, seafood, vegetarian dishes, grains and bread, salads, desserts and beverages. A list of U.S. based groups active in African, particularly hunger groups, is given.

EVALUATION: The recipes in this cookbook work well in an American kitchen and taste good to the American palate. They represent a nice variety of nations. The recipes are easy to follow and use.

TITLE: African Short Stories. (1985) Achebe, Chinua & Innes, C.L. (eds.)

SOURCE ADDRESS: Heineman Educational Books, Ltd.
22 Bedford Square
London, WC1B 3HH, United Kingdom

COST: $6.00

TARGET GROUPS: Literary Societies, General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Cultural Organizations, Personal Enjoyment, Service Groups

GOAL: To present an overview of the modern African short story

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To indicate the relationship of the modern African short story to traditional storytelling
2.) To indicate the similarities and differences in short stories between geographical regions of Africa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The modern African short story is drawn from a common oral heritage of storytelling. No traditional tales are included in this book. The editors believe that it is not necessary to demonstrate the links modern literature has with oral tradition. The rich contrasts of African literature are developed. Stories of northern Africa are quite spartan in comparison to rich stories of southern Africa. In western Africa there are stories which address racism slightly while such stories are stronger in southern Africa. Much unity is evident although the scenery changes. The short stories in this book are arranged by geographical region. Notes on the short story authors fill out the background of the stories chosen.

EVALUATION: This book is a good resource for those new to the African short story. It is also likely to produce some new stories, and perhaps new authors, for those who have some familiarity with the African short story literature. It is a comprehensive book well worth reading.

TITLE: The Heritage of African Poetry. (1985) Okpewho, Isadore, 229 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $8.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Literary Groups

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, Service Groups, Cultural Organizations, School Groups

GOAL: To introduce students of African poetry to the major topics which have occupied the attention of African poets whatever their medium of expression.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To bring the oral traditional poetry of Africa to the attention of the general reader
2.) To increase the reader's understanding of the functions poetry serves

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The nature of traditional African oral poetry is discussed. Then the development of modern, generally written, African poetry is described. The relationship between oral and written poetry is explained. Following this background discussion an anthology of African poetry is presented. The presentation is arranged by topics and includes love, praise, criticism, the environment, reflection, appeal, war, and death. Work from a variety of national is presented. Study questions are available for the reader to use in reviewing the works representing each topic.

EVALUATION: African poetry in all its beauty, complexity and range is presented in this anthology. The selections give a sense of the vast repertoire which exists. They also give a sense of the tradition of oral poetry which may be the most diverse and is certainly among the strongest in the world.

TITLE: African Literature in the 20th Century: A Guide (1986), Klein, Leonard S., 245 pp. Book.

Source Address: Ungar Publishing Co.
36 Cooper Square
New York, N.Y. 10003

COST: $12.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Personal enjoyment, Literature societies, Service organizations

GOAL: An Introduction to African Art

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) Presentation of an overview of African literature
2.) Introduction to the literature of each nation in Africa
3.) Introduction to major writers in each African nation

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book is based on the five volume Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century, 1981-84. It contains samples of the literature of each African nation. These chapters are accompanied by articles on major national writers. There is also an article on Negritude, the essence of African writing. A wide range of African literature is represented. Representative national styles and content are stressed.

EVALUATION: The range of literature presented in this book is wide but also has depth. The reader is likely to be introduced to styles different from those previously experienced. To some extent the literature presented is similar. Striking variations, however, are found between countries. There is something new for everyone, and also something familiar. This book is an excellent guide for both those who have some familiarity with African literature and for those to whom it is new.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

Abrahams, Peter. Mine Boy. Xuma faces the complexities of urban life in Johannesburg. This was one of the first books to draw attention to the condition of black South Africans under apartheid. Heinemann, $4.50.

Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart. This classic of modern African writing tells the story of a powerful tribal figure when the white administrators were first changing the local patterns of life in Nigeria. Heinemann, $3.50.

Beti, Mongo. Remember Ruben. Set in the last days of French-ruled Cameroon, this novel depicts the lives of the young African leaders who hoped to bring true independence to their country, only to fall into the control of post-colonial French rule. Three Continents Press, $7.00.

Conton, William. The African. First published in 1960, this is still the best known novel from Sierra Leone. It tells the story of a young man's education and his rise to political power as a nationalist leader. Heinemann, $5.00.

Diallo, Nafissatou. Fary, Princess of Tiali. A fairy tale by the Senegalese writer Diallo about a young peasant girl who is magically transformed into a princess. The tale examines caste and polygamy is old West Africa. Three Continents Press, $15.00.

Dipoko, Mbella Sonne. Because of Women. This is the story of a Camerounian river-man who quarrels with his pregnant wife over another woman. Heinemann, $5.00.

Fariah, Nuruddin. From a Crooked Rib. The story of a woman in Somalia who fights against an arranged marriage. Heinemann, $6.00.

Gordimer, Nadine. Maru. Margaret is a Masarwa girl, a teacher in a remote Botswana village. A young chief and a chief's son are both in love with her. Heinemann, $5.00.

Jordan, A. C. The Wrath of the Ancestors. Translated from Xhosa, this novel is considered the classic of modern Xhosa writing. It depicts the deep sorrows of an oppressed people in South Africa. Three Continents Press, $9.00.

Kachingwe, Aubrey. No Easy Task. The first novel by a Malwian writer about the political struggles of a British colony moving towards independence and a young journalist whose pastor-father emerges as his country's leader. Heinemann, $6.00.

Munonye, John. Oil Man of Obange. The story of the series of tragedies which gradually break this small man. He is faced with the daily problems of survival as he tries to scrape enough money ogether to pay his children's school fees. Heinemann, $6.00.

Nwapa, Flora. Never Again. A novel about the Nigerian civil war -- the humor, the patriotism, trust and disillusionment. Three Continents Press, $7.00.

Nwapa, Flora. One is Enough. After six years of happy and childless marriage, Amaka discovers her husband plans to take another wife -- who has already born him two sons in secret. She Goes to Lagos to make a new life for herself rather than remain with her husband. Three Continents Press, $5.00.

Plaatje, Sol T. Mhudi. First novel by a black South African in English (1917). Mhudi, the heroine, tells of the first encounters between settlers going north and the Sotho People. Set in the 1830's, the Zulu-Ndebele people are also violently present. Three Continents Press, $14.00.

Soyinka, Wole. The Interpreters. The story of a small group of young Nigerian intellectuals living in Lagos. Having grown up together they still meet in an effort to "interpret" themselves and the society of modern and traditional Nigeria. By the Nobel Prize-winning author. Heinemann, $6.00.

Thiongo, Ngugi Wa. A Grain of Wheat. Mugo is asked to deliver the speech at the Uhuru celebrations. What people don't know is that he was a traitor during the Mau Mau times. Heinemann, $5.00.

Tutuola, Amos. The Wild Hunter in the Bush of the Ghosts. The "Wild Hunter" is transported to five towns inhabited by mischievous ghosts. He endures numerous harrassments and with the help of a magic charm, escapes the tortures inflicted upon him. Three Continents Press. $10.00.

Addresses:

Three Continents Press
1636 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20009

Heinemann, Inc.
70 Court Street
Portsmouth, NH. 038013

TITLE: West Africa and Islam: A Study of Religious Development from the 18th to the 20th Century. (1982) Clarke, Peter B., 275 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Edward Arnold Ltd. COST: $9.95
41 Bedford Square
London, WC1B 3DQ UK

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: History Enthusiasts, Religious Groups, Cultural Organizations, School Groups Personal Knowledge

GOAL: To provide a general history of the rise and development of Islam in West Africa

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To trace the introduction and spread of Islam to the West African region
2.) To describe the changes that Islam brought to politics, society, and economics in West Africa over a period of time

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The development of Islam in West Africa is traced back to the time when the religion made its first appearance. Then it is followed up through the period of the "rightly guided" Caliphs (successors to the Prophet Mohammed). Its expansion is also discussed against this general background. The author describes the changes that Islam underwent from being a religion of court and commerce to a mass religion. The various movements for the reform of Islam in West Africa are discussed. The contemporary position of Islam in the region is preented in selected important countries with a heavy concentratin of Muslims. These are also the countries where most of the 19th century Islamic reform movements originated. Study questions are provided at the end of the book for the reader to use to review the material presented in the book, and for discussion.

EVALUATION: The history of Islam, a very strong religion in West Africa having millions of adherents, is presented in this book in a very lucid and interesting manner. The transformations that the religion has undergone at different periods of time are also discussed. The book is based on scholarly research and many issues related to Islam and its development are pointed out. The transformation of the culture of Africa as a result of the introduction of Islam is also discussed. The book contains maps and pictures to illustrate important places, events and Islamic practice.

TITLE: African Religions and Philosophy. (1969) Mbiti, John S. 340 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Heinemann
70 Court St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

COST: $13.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: History Enthusiasts, Personal Knowledge, Cultural Organizations, School Groups

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To introduce African religions
2.) To introduce African religious philosophies
3.) To examine the role of religion in African life

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This detailed book is a standard reference text in the area of African religions and philosophy. The book describes the African concept of time and the nature of God. The works of God and relationship with nature are then discussed. This introduction leads to a chapter on how God is worshipped. Then other spiritual beings, spirits and the living-dead are described. Next, the book moves on to God's relationship with people. The Creation story and people's original state are discussed. Religion in the lives of people from birth through death is examined. Those who have religious power such as priests and rainmakers are discussed as are forms of power such as magic and sorcery. This leads into a discussion of concepts of evil, ethics and justice. The influence of religions from outside such as Christianity and Islam is described. Finally the search for new values, identity, and security is examined.

EVALUATION: African Religions and Philosophy is a basic text which presents information on virtually every aspect of its topic. It is comprehensive and scholarly. An excellent resource.

TITLE: Introduction to African Religion (1975), Mbiti, John S. 211 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Heinemann Educational Books Ltd.
22 Bedford Square
London, WC1B 3HH, United Kingdom

COST: $10.00

TARGET GROUP: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Cultural Organizations, Church Groups, Service Organizaitons

GOAL: To introduce African religions to people who do not know anything much about them

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To descibe African religions in general
2.) To describe African concepts of God and spirits
3.) To describe morals in African religions
4.) To identify African religious leaders

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book is written at the secondary school or college level. It is an introductory book for those who have little knowledge of African religions. It describes African heritage and the African religions which are part of it. It also describes the African view of the universe and belief in God. How people approach God and the role of the spirits is explained. The origin of people and their relationship with God is discussed. The role of religion in marriage, death, medicine, festivals and morals is described. The role of religious leaders, objects and places are explained. The impact of other religions on African religions is also discussed.

EVALUATION: This book is a good basic introduction to African religions. Relevant topics are covered which provide appropriate background to the reader.

TITLE: History of Central Africa. (1983) Birmingham, David and Martin, Phyllis M. (eds.) Vol. I, 336 pp. and Vol. II, 432 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman, Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $18.95 ea.

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Historical Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Information, Cultural Organizaitons, Service Groups, School Groups

GOAL: To introduce the history of central Africa

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To cover the central African colonial areas demarcated by Britain, France, Belgium and Portugal
2.) To consider factors influencing history in central Africa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Volume I covers the period 1400 - 1870. The area discussed is subdivided into; the savanna belt of north central Africa, the forest areas, the Atlantic Zone, the eastern savanna, the Indian Ocean zone, and the Zimbabwe plateau. The chapters describe how people in central Africa experimented with new technologies in their traditional crafts. The chapters also describe the economy, political structure, and religion of the area.

Volume II covers the period from 1871 to the present. It focuses on the colonial and post-colonial history of the area. Topics covered include: rural society and the Belgian colonial economy; mining in the Belgian Congo; the Northern Republics 1960-1980; and Settlers and Liberators in the South 1953-1980. A major effect noted is the continued influence, after independence, of policies instituted by colonizers.

EVALUATION: These two volumes are a comprehensive introduction to the history of central Africa. Many issues are discussed which have continuing relevance. Generally this is an area of the world about which little is written. These volumes fill the gap and present the reader with a useful historical survey.

TITLE: The Making of Modern Africa. (1986) Afigbo, A.E.; Ayandele, E. A; Gavin, R. J.; Omer-Cooper, J. D.; and R. Palmer. Volume I: The Nineteenth Century, Volume II: The Twentieth Century. 352 pp each volume

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman, Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $12.95 per volume

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Historical Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Interest, Cultural Organizations, Service Groups, School Groups

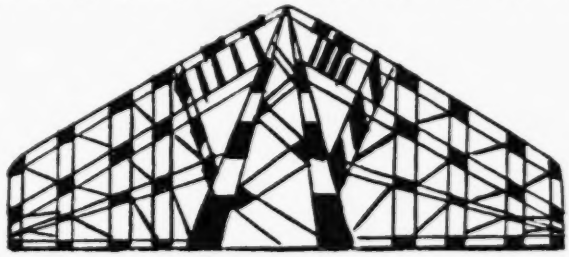
GOAL: To discuss the history of Africa during the past 200 years

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a comprehensive survey of periods in African history
2.) To discuss and interpret major themes and happenings by region

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book is intended to serve as a source of historical information. Both volumes are organized by region: west Africa, northern Africa, southern and central Africa, and middle Africa. Volume I, The Nineteenth Century, considers many major events including the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt, migrations in southern Africa, and the colonial conquest of middle Africa. Volume II, The Twentieth Century, traces European administration of colonies, the rise of nationalism and events since independence.

EVALUATION: These two volumes serve as a primary source of information about African history during the past 200 years. The presentation is an overview which does contain a lot of supporting detail.



TITLE: Women Leaders in African History, (1984)
Sweetman, David, 100 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Hienemann
70 Court St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

COST: $6.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Women's Groups, Personal Interest, Historical Enthusiasts, Cultural Organizations, Homemakers Clubs

GOAL: To describe the generally unrecognized extensive role of women in African history

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To present portraits of twelve key women in African history
2.) To describe the general role African women have played in their societies

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Women from ancient Egypt through colonial Africa appear in this book. Twelve woment who played pivotal roles in the history of their peoples are described. They are: Hatshepsut of Egypt, Candace of Meroe, the Kahina of the Mghreb, Amina of Hausaland, the Wangels of Ethiopia, Nzingo of Angola, Dona Beatrice of Kongo, Mmanthatisi of the Sotho, Ranavalona of Madagascar, Muganzirwazza of Buganda, Yaa Asantewa of Asante and Nehanda of Zimbabwe. Maps, photos and engravings supplement the text.

EVALUATION: An introductory book, Women Leaders in African History, is interesting and informative. Its' portraits of important African women are lively. Each woman is a leader who had great impact on her people, often despite many tribulations.

TITLE: Women in Africa of the Sub-Sahara.
Vol. 1: Ancient Times top the 20th Century.
(1985) Bingham, Marjorie Wall and Gross, Susan Hill. 200 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Gary E. McCuen, Inc.
411 Mallalieu Drive
Hudson, WI 54016

COST: $10.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Women's Groups, Personal Enjoyment, Cultural Organizations, History Enthusiasts

GOAL: To describe the diversity of women's lives in historic and contemporary Africa.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To note Western stereotypes of African women and their lives
2.) To review the cultural universals which influence women's lives including political situations, economic conditions, religious practices, social settings, education, and art

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Women in ancient Africa are discussed, and the possibility of three million years of history is presented. Then the book discusses the range of roles African women have had, from leadership and chieftancies to slavery. Historic economic contributions of African women are outlined. The central role of women in African family life is explained in all its diversity. Finally, the meeting and interaction of white women with the women of Africa is considered. Provided in the book are a bibliography, study and review questions, a glossary and maps. Filmstrips to accompany the book are also available.

EVALUATION: The level of this book is introductory. It reads like a course text and appears to be intended to be one. Bold print highlights quotations and major points.

TITLE: Banditry, Rebellion, and Social Protest in Africa. (1986) Crummey, Donald (ed.) 416 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Heinemann
70 Court St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

COST: $27.50

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, History Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Cultural Organizations, Personal Knowledge

GOAL: To examine the role of banditry and rebellion in relation to social protest and in relation to the independence movements in African colonies and in Africa today

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To examine the situation in which crime and violence occurred in colonial Africa and in the new nations of Africa
2.) To examine how crime and violence are related to African history, politics, and sociology

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This is an advanced book for readers who have some background in political science and/or sociology. A wide variety of topics are included. The theme focuses on a consideration of crime and violence in Africa as displayed in banditry, rebellion and various forms of social protest. The four major sections into which the book is subdivided are: Criminality, banditry, protest and resistance, and rebellion. The colonial period beginning with the early 1800's is the starting point of the book. Discussion includes problems in current independent Africa in relation to groups who fight for their freedom within newly-independent nations. The topics range from theft and social protest among the tin miners of northern Nigeria; to the 1894 revolt of Bahta Hagos against Italian overrule in Eritrea; to Bushman banditry in twentieth-century Namibia; to black women's struggle against Orange Free State pass laws.

EVALUATION: A challenging book, Banditry, Rebellion, and Social Protest in Africa is worth the time it takes to read. The chapters are likely to introduce events in African history most readers are not familiar with. The authors define much crime and violence as anti-social and not as resistance against colonial power. They seek to tighten views of what actions constitute real resistance. They also consider activities not previously included in descriptions of resistance, for example, women's resistance against South African pass laws.

TITLE: Rural Development: Putting the Last First. (1983) Chambers, Robert, 256 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman, Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $8.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Information, Rural Groups, Cultural Organizations, Service Groups

GOAL: To examine the misconceptions governing attempts to tackle rural poverty in developing nations and propose practical solutions

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To describe the need to examine rural poverty
2.) To consider means for involving the rural poor in projects which attempt to help them

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The author examines misconceptions and preconceptions which outsiders bring to projects in rural development. The author demonstrates how inaccurate conceptions of a situation will result in programs which don't work or don't work well. The author's own research is used to illustrate how most outsiders do not really work to help the poorest rural residents. An approach is suggested for future work. This approach involves an indepth examination of the customs and traditions of the rural people living in the area where a development project is to occur. The author's emphasis is on working with the poorest first.

EVALUATION: This book suggests rural development is critical. Nations need to produce food for their people and to transport it to the people who need it. Living conditions in rural areas must be improved. Both rural and urban dwellers will benefit from improved rural conditions. This book outlines problems with previous rural development efforts and suggests that those with the biggest problems, the poorest people, be the starting point for future development efforts. It also suggests that outsiders must really learn about the people they want to help. If they don't understand their cultures and traditions they are likely to devise projects which will be rejected. The author puts forward a strong argument for his views.

TITLE: Contemporary Africa. (1986) Bell, Morag, 256 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman, Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $16.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Augience, Geography Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Information, Cultural Organizations, Service Groups, School Groups

GOAL: To introduce the geography of Africa

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To demonstrate European influence on African change
2.) To examine the interaction of African culture and political and economic structures

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: A framework for geographic study begins this book. Then the book examines political and economic structures in Africa today. The importance of culture is stressed. An overview of African history is presented to demonstrate its effect on African culture. The relationship of Africa with countries on other continents is described. The effects of ideologies and public policies on change is discussed. Population is the topic which closes the book. Culture and the state are considered in terms of their effects on population. Migration of populations from rural to urban areas and between nations is also considered.

EVALUATION: Contemporary Africa presents an overview of Africa as it is today. Its' focus is on how the geography of Africa keeps changing and on the forces and issues creating that change. This is quite a far-ranging book which will give the reader an understanding of the complexities which result in contemporary Africa.

TITLE: Sociology of the African Family. (1984)
Kayongo-Male, Diane and Onyango, Philista,
124 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman Inc.
95 Church St.
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $11.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Information, Service Organizations, Cultural Groups

GOAL: To introduce the sociology of the African family

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) To give background on the African family
2.) To relate the African family to its society
3.) To consider relevant theories of family development related to African families

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book provides a concise introduction to the sociology of the African family. It attempts to base both examples and conclusions on African situations rather than on those occurring in other parts of the world. Topics covered include: the family in Africa; internal processes of the family; the family and society; conflict and the family; areas of family policy in Africa; and theoretical considerations.

EVALUATION: This book does successfully provide a foundation for considering the African family and its sociology -- how people relate to each other and to their society. It does depend on African situations and examples and draw its conclusions and theories from them. Most other books try to apply Western situations to Africa. Although similarities exist between societies each is also different. Hence, this book's efforts to use African society as its basis makes it unique. It is a recommended book for the individual who does not know a great deal about the African family.

TITLE: Working Life: Factories, Townships, and Popular Culture on the Rand, 1886-1940 (A People's History of South Africa, Vol. 2) (1986)
Callinicos, Lull, 256 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Ohio University Press COST: $15.95
Scott Quadrangle
Athens, Ohio 45701

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Historical Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Cultural Organizations, Service Groups, School Groups

GOAL: To analyze the world which created a working class in South Africa and the effects the workers had, in turn, on the world

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the lifestyle and occupations of working class people from 1886-1940 in South Africa
2.) To describe the political life of South African workers from 1886-1940
3.) To describe the organizations of South African workers from 1886-1940
4.) To describe the art forms and entertainments of South African workers from 1886-1940.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book covers the years, 1886-1940 that saw the rise of a working class in South Africa. It analyzes the world that made the workers. This world was that of the development of manufacturing based on a development of mining. The cities developed satellite townships where the working class lived. The working conditions and often inadequate wages are described. Working class people developed a new world of their own, with its own politics, organizations, art, and entertainment.

EVALUATION: An excellent book, Working Life, offers some glimpses into the lives of the people who people who actually built and ran industrial South Africa. It is a rare insight into everyday lives, and working class goals. The working class of South Africa from 1886-1940 was in many ways similar to that of other countries. There were striking differences, also. This book describes both those similarities and those differences.

TITLE: The Crisis in Zaire: Myths and Realities. (1986) Ntalaja, Nzongola, (ed.) 336 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Africa World Press COST: $11.95
P. O. Box 1892
Trenton, N.J. 08607

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Politics Enthusiasts, Current Affairs Groups, Cultural Organizations

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To examine major theories of African development
2.) To use Zaire as a case study of African development
3.) To promote understanding of Zaire

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: In this book major theories of how an African nation develops into a modern state are examined. Zaire is used as a case study of development. The focus is on its political and economic crises. Both Zairans and Westerners have authored chapters in this book. The authors approach Zairan political and economic crises from a wide range of scholarly disciplines.

EVALUATION: This case study of Zaire is interesting because it is an in-depth analysis of the problems which many nations face in varying degrees. It is a scholarly book which sometimes requires careful reading. As an example of crises, Zaire is both extreme and commonplace. The book convincingly addresses some issues as myths, not really occurring. It is able to identify the real problems which exist.

TITLE: Two Dogs and Freedom: Children of the Townships Speak Out. (1986) Written and Illustrated by Township Children, 48 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Ohio University Press
Scott Quadrangle
Athen, OH 45701

COST: $7.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Cultural Organizations, Service Groups, Homemakers Clubs, School Groups, Personal Information

GOAL: To present South African children's descriptions of the issues affecting their lives in South Africa today

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To enable South African children to say what they think
2.) To enable South African children to draw what they think and feel
3.) To enable the reader to see South Africa as some of its' children do

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Two Dogs and Freedom is the only book which has used children's comments and drawings to present a child's eye view of life in South Africa's black townships during the first half of the 1980's. Children describe the issues which are affecting their lives in South Africa today. The children's drawings are published as well as their comments. The children's comments do not show an ideological bias. They tend to view the world in a straightforward manner. Issues do come forward as children state their wishes. One eight-year-old boy wishes for "two dogs and freedom" -- hence the title of this book.

EVALUATION: This is an enjoyable book where children speak and draw like children. It shows that the children of the black townships of South Africa are very real and very normal despite the great stresses of the times in which they live. Those stresses do creep into this book, however. Children's comments reflect the stresses they live under. Words like "freedom" are used in statements which indicate that the child believes he or she has no freedom. These young children are not politicizing their drawings and comments, but they are saying what they think and feel. This is an enjoyable book but also a disturbing one because in it children are honest and say what they think and feel.

TITLE: Independent Africa and the World. (1986)
Calvocorossi, Peter. 151 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Longman, Inc.
95 Church Street
White Plains, NY 10601

COST: $9.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Service Groups, Cultural Organizations, Personal Information, School Groups

GOAL: To indicate the contrast between the high hopes at the time of independence and the concerns and disappointments of current years.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the ways in which the map of Africa changed as independence occurred
2.) To describe economic problems which African nations have had

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: Liberation has been the byword in the last half of this century in Africa. Liberation resulted in independent nations. This book describes the effects of independence. It examines problems of how best to govern new nations. It focuses upon the economic traps new governments got themselves into and the traps they inherited from colonial governments. The appendices give data on each African nation such as their major domestic products, dates of independence, and public debts. The book is a series of lectures which have been collected, organized and published.

EVALUATION: A critical but sympathetic survey of Africa since the 1950's is presented. The contrast between high hopes at independence and economic and political disappointments today is highlighted. Because of the lecture format from which this book originated, it is not as easily read as it might have been. Nevertheless it is informative and poses many intriguing questions.

TITLE: The Yoruba of Southwestern Nigeria. (1982)
Bascom, William. 118 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Waveland Press, Inc. COST: $7.95

P. O. Box 400
Prospect Heights
Illinois 60070

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, History Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, School Groups, Cultural Organizations

GOAL: To describe the social, economic and political structure of one of the most important and interesting peoples of Africa

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To introduce the elaborate and complex set of religious beliefs, artwork, social organization, political structure, legal system and economic organization of the Yoruba
2.) To trace the historical background of the Yoruba
3.) To develop an appreciation for the variety of cultures that are found in different parts of the world

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The book examines the various facets of the Yoruba culture -- the environment, origin and history, economic organization like major occupations, land tenure, major agricultural products, crafts and builds; governmental systems and the role of different personalities and institutions in the political system, the legal system. The social organization is also discussed in a detailed and elaborate manner, bringing out the complex relationships and structures in the society such as childrearing practices, clans, family structure, marriage, ploygamy; religion; and the artworks of the Yoruba. Pictures are included in order to clearly illustrate some important aspects of the Yoruba culture.

EVALUATION: African culture in all its' complexity and intricacy is presented in fine detail, depicting its richness and uniqueness. The book presents a good picture of the elaborate structures and institutions that shape the lives of the Yoruba. It is an aid to a better understanding and appreciation of African culture.

TITLE: The Barabaig: East African Cattle-Herders.
(1985) Klima, George J. 112 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Waveland Press, Inc. COST: $7.95
P.O. Box 400
Prospect Heights
Illinois 60070

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, History Enthusiasts

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, School Groups,
Cultural Organizations

GOAL: To describe the nomadic and cattle-rearing Barabaig and to show the changes that have taken place in their lifestyle

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1.) to describe the life patterns of the Barabaig
2.) To discuss the changes in the culture of the Barabaig in contemporary Africa
3.) To increase understanding and appreciation of African cultures

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The major theme of the book is cultural ecology. An explanation of the "cattle complex" is presented. The author describes how the use of cattle and cattle products, as well as attitudes toward cattle, influence everything the Barabaig do. Milk, and milk products, hides, drawn blood, cow dung, meat, and urine are all used. The social structure -- childrearing practices, initiation, marriage and property relations, sex roles and relationships, government etc. is discussed in detail.

EVALUATION: The book is presented in such a way that it can increase the reader's understanding of one of the major forms of adaptation of people to their environment. It is a study of ecological adaptation among the Barabaig. It is also a contribution to the understanding of a widespread cultural type in human history reflecting the diversity of human life.

TITLE: The Dinka of the Sudan. (1984) Deng, Francis. 174 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Waveland Press, Inc. COST: $7.95

P. O. BOX 400
Prospect Heights
Illinois 60070

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience

POTENTIAL USES: Personal Enjoyment, Cultural Organizations, Anthropology Enthusiasts

GOAL: To introduce the society and culture of the Dinka

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To describe the lifestyle of the Dinka
2.) To provide a view of the social structure of the Dinka
3.) To increase understanding and appreciation of Dinka society

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: This book provides a discussion of the life and culture of the Dinka. The reader learns of the structure of society, sex roles, courtship, marriage, kinship, family, law, economy, childrearing, socialization, aging and religious practice. The presentation is arranged by topics that start from the goals of the Dinka society from birth to death, pointing out the meaning of events in these periods. A description of the culture of the whole society is built. Many qualities of Dinka culture are presented. Also discussed is contemporary Dinka society and how it has been transformed in recent decades.

EVALUATION: This book serves as a good source for understanding the Dinka culture. The author uses his personal experiences as a Dinka and provides a good description of the society and culture.

TITLE: My Name is Today: An Illustrated Discussion of Child Health, Society, and Poverty in Less Developed Countries. (1980) Morley, D. and Lovel, H. 359 pp.

SOURCE ADDRESS: Macmillan
London, UK

COST: $9.95

TARGET GROUPS: General Audience, Homemakers Clubs

POTENTIAL USES: Child Health Workers, School Groups, Cultural Organizations, Service Groups

GOAL: To present the multifaceted natue of child health problems vis-a-vis the roles of society and poverty of less developed countries

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.) To present the state of child health and development problems in the less developed countries and their multifaceted nature
2.) To discuss the various ways of preventing these problems

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS: The book discusses many problems of child health such as malnutrition, lack of parental education, limited resources, causes of childhood illness, rapid population growth, and the emphasis on curative rather than preventive measures. It offers suggestions on how to solve these problems.

EVALUATION: The use of illustrations, cartoons, graphs and line drawings makes the book very interesting to read and helps readers raise questions and engage in discussions. This also helps readers to identify problems more easily, attract their attention and sustain their interest. Many child health problems of less developed countries which may be different from, or in some cases similar to, those of developed countries are discussed. Thus, the book provides a comparative perspective on the study of child health issues. The book also gives the reader an opportunity to understand the cultural and economic factors underlying these problems in less developed nations.

LISTING OF RESOURCES IN AFRICAN STUDIES

The following are all available from:

Crossroads Press,
African Studies Association
255 Kinsey Hall
UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024

DeLancey, Mark and Normandy, Elizabeth. Nigeria: A Bibliography of Politics, Government, Administration, and International Relations. (1983). 2,207 entries. The time frame is 1960 - 1980; with special reference to the modern political system. $18.50

Feierman, Steven. Health and Society in Africa: A Working Bibliography. (1979), 2,800 entries concentrating on the relationship between medicine, disease, and social organization in Africa under such braod categories as folk medicine, witchcraft, and public health. $25.00

Henige, David. Works in African History, 1978-1982. (1984), 5,000 entries for 1,000 books. $10.00

Jones, Patricia. Paperback Books on Africa. 3rd. ed. (1977). 2,000 titles, 5 indexes. $8.00

Ohrn, Steven and Riley, Rebecca. Africa from Real to Reel: A Filmography. (1976). Annotated descriptions of 1,300 16mm films on Africa. $15.00

Siegel, Eric. A Bibliography for the Study of African Politics, Vol. III. (1983), 5,721 entries covering 1976-1980. $8.00

Solomon, Alan C. A Bibliography for the Study of African Politics, Vol. II. (1982), 3,968 entries. The years 1971-75 are covered. $15.00

Western, Dominique Coulet. A Bibliography of the Arts of Africa. (1975), 4,000 titles on art, architecture, oral literature, music, and dance. $10.00

EVALUATION

We would like to receive your evaluation of the scope and content of this Resource Guide. Your evaluation would give us ideas on how such a Guide might be expanded or made more useful. You are requested to fill out the evaluation form below and mail it to:

Dr. Cynthia Szymanski Sunal
West Virginia University
604 Allen Hall
Morgantown, WV 26506-6122

Additional copies of this evaluation form may be photocopied.

Evaluation Form: Resource Guide of African Study Materials for Use by Adult Populations

1. Overall Usefulness of the Guide. (circle one)

   very useful useful not useful

2. Range of Materials in the Guide. (circle one)

   useful range somewhat limited very limited

3. Geographical representativeness of the Guide.

   very representative somewhat representative

   not representative

4. Geographical areas or countries of most interest to you (please list below).

   _____

5. Topic(s) of most interest to you. Circle all those of interest to you.

   Music Art and Architecture Theatre Cooking

   Contemporary Africa Literature Religion History

6. Other topics related to Africa which are of interest to you (please list below).

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